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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/584,688	06/01/2000	Akito Umebayashi	50023-122	5665
20277	7590	03/01/2004	EXAMINER	
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY 600 13TH STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096			QURESHI, SHABANA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2155	13	
DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/584,688	Applicant(s)	UMEBAYASHI, AKITO
Examiner	Shabana Qureshi	Art Unit	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2003.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 June 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Examiner concluded that claim 1 is a single means claim. Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claim 1, Examiner could not determine which portion is the preamble. Examiner assumes that the preamble is either "A network system comprising" or "A network system comprising clients and electronic equipment with which" or "A network system comprising clients and electronic equipment with which the client can communicate via communication protocol by specifying the file name". Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the file name" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. Claim 1 recites the limitation "comprising clients" and later refers to "the client" without specifying which client is being referred to. Therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano Sadaji (JP 09006558).

Regarding claim 1, Sadaji teaches a network system comprising clients and electronic equipment with which the client can communicate via communication protocol by specifying a file name, wherein there is provided command interpretation means that interprets a file transfer protocol command sent out by the client and a character string written on the file name field of the command as another command only when the string is a specific character string and generates a control instruction to the electronic equipment based on the file transfer protocol command and another command (abstract).

Although Sadaji does not explicitly state that the file name is an ftp command sent out by the client, Sadaji does teach that the false file name expresses the status of the printer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that a file name that expresses printer status is also a command that when completed, provides the status of a job because it is known that the particular command has been processed.

As per claim 2, Sadaji teaches the network system as defined in claim 1, wherein the communication protocol is a file transfer protocol (abstract).

As per claim 5, Sadaji teaches the network system as defined in claim 1, wherein there is provided operation status informing means that informs the client of each operation status of the electronic equipment according to the control instruction (abstract).

6. Claims 3, 4, and 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano Sadaji (JP 09006558) in view of Shima (US 6,369,909 B1).

As per claim 3, Sadaji does not explicitly state that the communication protocol is a hypertext transfer protocol. However, Shima teaches a network system, wherein the communication protocol is a hypertext transfer protocol (column 18, lines 23-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that hypertext transfer protocol is a common protocol in the art used by most networks, therefore it would be beneficial to combine the http feature to invention of Sadaji so that the network system of Sadaji could be applied to many networks.

As per claim 4, Sadaji does not explicitly state in the abstract that his invention includes a job ID issuing means. However, Shima teaches a network system, wherein there is provided job ID issuing means that issues a job ID to the electronic equipment according to the control instruction (column 8, lines 19-30; 58-67, “job data”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the job ID issuing feature of Shima to the teachings of Sadaji because doing so would provide the benefit of indexing the print jobs and identifying a job with a unique ID.

As per claim 6, Sadaji does not explicitly teach the provision of a user ID checking means. However, Shima teaches a network system, wherein there is provided user ID checking means that checks the individual user ID given to each user at the client (column 8, lines 19-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the user ID checking means feature of Shima to the teachings of Sadaji because doing so would provide the benefit of providing a system to authenticate users.

As per claims 7-11, Sadaji does not explicitly disclose image data management means. However, Shima teaches a network system, wherein the electronic equipment is provided with image data accumulation, inputting, processing, outputting, and managements means to manage image data (column 23, line 56 – column 28, line 67). ”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the image management features of Shima to the teachings of Sadaji because doing so would provide more functionality to the electronic equipment.

As per claim 12, Sadaji does not specify the management of image data. However, Shima further teaches a network system, wherein the electronic equipment is provided with image data management means that manages image data according to the image ID given to each user at the client (column 23, line 56 – column 28, line 67).

As per claim 13, Sadaji does not disclose a relational database system. However, Shima further teaches a network system, wherein the image data management means is a relational database system (column 23, line 56 – column 28, line 67).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shabana Qureshi whose telephone number is (703) 308-6118. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shabana Qureshi
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

23 February 2004



SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER